



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 554-2700

Fresno
1130 O. Street, Rm 3654
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 498-7272

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Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706

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GRAND JURY CHARGES SACRAMENTO MAN WITH CARD SKIMMING

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging FARRELL MAHARAJ, 22, of Sacramento, with possession of a credit card skimmer and possession of 15 or more unauthorized access devices.

This case is the product of an investigation by the United States Secret Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew D. Segal, who is prosecuting the case, the complaint alleged that on July 13, 2006, the defendant was working as a cashier at a gas station in Rancho Cordova. Secret Service agents went to the station and used debit cards to buy merchandise. They arrested MAHARAJ after they observed him swipe one of the debit cards through a skimmer that MAHARAJ kept in his pocket. A skimmer is a device used to capture the electronic data on an ATM or credit card. The indictment alleges that on July 13, 2006, MAHARAJ possessed a magnetic card skimmer and over 150 unauthorized access devices.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for possession of device making equipment is 15 years imprisonment. If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for possession of 15 or more access devices is 10 years imprisonment.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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